

REMARKS

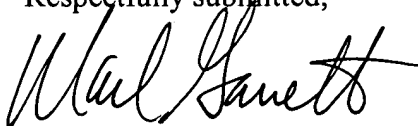
A. Status

Entry of this preliminary amendment will result in (a) replacement of the informally-filed figures with formal figures, (b) recitation of the relationship of this continuation application to its co-pending parent application, and (c) amendment of the claims. The amendments to the originally-filed claims were made for the same reasons specified for the corresponding amendments in the parent case. Not all the claim amendments made in the parent case have been made again in this case.

B. Claim 1 Is Patentable over the '709 Patent

Claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,398,709. These claims include a parabolic surface defining a body chamber and a radioisotopic component inside the body chamber. Claim 1 has been amended to distinguish the '709 patent by specifying that the radioisotopic component is separated from the parabolic surface in at least one location by a gap. The '709 patent fails to teach or suggest this claimed relationship. Therefore, the pending claims are patentable over the '709 patent and should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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